



ALEXANDRIA.

THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 7.

THE "NEW SCHEME," is being very calmly examined, looked over and discussed at the South. The manner in which it has been brought forward, the unauthorized agents in Washington who have been acting in the matter, the avowed wish on their part to keep it as long as possible from the people of the South, and the general disinclination to have anything to do with politics, apart from any judgment as to the merits of the plan, make against it. People say, if the President has changed his policy, or if Mr. Orr, or Mr. A., B. & C., from South Carolina and some other States, change their policy, we don't care to change our positions, or "to meddle or make" any further. We are inclined to believe the Richmond Whig expresses the public sentiment when it objects to the South being a proposer of terms, or an active participant in preliminaries. No man does or ought to underrate the importance of a restoration of all the States to all their rights under the Constitution, and no man ought to interpose any needless impediment to a just, and reasonable, and honorable settlement. Further than this what can we do? Let us, says the Whig, "meet readily what harmonizes with our views and our rights, and object to what does not." Above all, let us have the free right of opinion and choice, without dictation or threats of punishment, if we do not act just as we are ordered to act.

The Washington Chronicle talks of the Legislature of Maryland having been "terrified" into the repeal of one law and the passage of another, under the fear, manifestly, it is intended, of retaliatory measures on the part of the Radicals in Congress. Alas! Alas!—This is what we are coming to, unless this thing is checked! Amendments to the Constitution and to the State constitutions, are concocted at Washington, to be sent down to the "provinces" to be "registered," and the Legislatures are then threatened with the "consequences," if they do not shapen their course to suit the dominant party in possession of the legislative department of the general government! Thus the work of "centralization" goes on—thus the rights of the States are gradually effaced—thus is the process of converting our former system of a union of sovereign States, into a consolidated central government, urged to its final completion. And then—what then? The history of every nation which has existed since the world began, tells. We may not live to see it—but let not even the present generation expect to escape the evils which must follow in the fulness of time!

Mr. Geo. W. McCracken, of New York, is the person who furnished the State Department with the information concerning the reported opinions and conversations of Mr. Motley, and other U. S. officials abroad.

It is said, in the Washington Chronicle, that "Gen. Sheridan, at his recent visit to the House of Representatives, walked over to Thaddeus Stevens, and greeted him with a warm shake of the hand."

Ed. H. Wayland, the Erie railroad clerk, who absconded from Jersey City with \$15,000, has been arrested.

Mrs. Sickles, the wife of Gen. Sickles, died in New York yesterday.

THE ICE EMBARGO.—The ice in the river is still blocked in the same manner as it was at our last report, and nothing but a heavy, warm rain will clear it for some time. The Georgetown channel is completely choked, between the Long Bridge and the Arsenal wharves, and until that blockade is carried away the high water will continue in Georgetown, at which place last evening the water was still at the same height it has been since the break-up. The ice is piled up in huge masses opposite the city. The wharves are badly injured. Pavement's wharf (where the New York and Philadelphia steamers lay) has been lifted by the ice from the piles, and the freight sheds thrown down. The wharf of the Borden Coal Mining company is badly damaged. The wharves of the Messrs. Ray, at upper canal, are greatly injured. From the upper canal our reporter ascertained that but one break had occurred and that at a gap of about twenty feet in the embankment, near the Great Falls. Water street, in Georgetown, wears a gloomy aspect, the mills had to stop work on account of no water, and business is completely at a standstill.

At the Potomac Ferry Company's wharf, foot of Seventh street, the ice blockade prevents the same appearance as it did shortly after the break in the bridges. The steam boats have all been secured as much as possible.

The ice is yet packed against the Long Bridge, and should a sudden thaw and rise of the river take place fears are entertained that more of that structure will be carried off.—*National Intelligencer.*

It will be seen that Mr. Stevens from the Reconstruction Committee, has introduced a "Force Bill" for the government of the Southern States, converting them into Military Districts, and establishing Military Law under Military commanders. It is very much the plan of Cromwell's "Major Generals." The Washington Chronicle says:—"It is understood that the bill reported to the House yesterday by Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, from the Joint Committee on Reconstruction, 'to provide for the more efficient government of the insurrectionary States,' is approved by all the military commanders, especially those who have had command of the Southern States in that section, such as Major General Sheridan, (Geo. H. Thomas, E. O. C. Ord, Sickles and others. The bill is said to have been drawn at the suggestion of prominent military men, and it is understood that General Grant favors such a mode for governing the late rebel States as the present. The bill was agreed upon in committee almost without debate."

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the times."

An entertainment for the benefit of the widows and orphans of Rome, Ga., was given in that city a few days since, and a tablecloth occurred in the performance in which a Confederate flag was displayed. The agent of the Freedmen's Bureau put a stop to the exhibition, and shortly after, a detachment of the 16th U. S. Regulars arrived, and arrested five young gentlemen who took part in the tablecloth. The prisoners were taken to Atlanta and confined in the military barracks by order of Gen. Thomas, commanding the department.

Gen. Howard, upon the representation of Valenton, of the Fort Smith (Ark.) Era, has issued an order donating one thousand dollars to a colony of freedmen, about forty miles south of Fort Smith, to aid them in purchasing seeds and implements. This amount is appropriated from a fund sent from England and placed at the disposal of the Freedmen's Bureau for that purpose.

The Baptist Church, Old Fellow's Hall, and J. Harris' extensive shoe manufactory, in Marblehead, Mass., was burned on Friday night. Mr. Harris's loss, \$155,000; insured \$65,000. The works of the Carey Oil Company, with several adjacent buildings, in Chelsea, Mass., and a large stock of oil were destroyed by fire. Loss \$20,000.

Some Indians, who saw several women baptized by immersion at St. Joseph, Mo., a hole being cut in the ice for that purpose, thought that the ceremony was to make them good, brought their squaws, cut another hole in the ice near by, and gave them a ducking, notwithstanding their remonstrances.

A terrible hurricane on the 1st of February swept over Ouachita and the adjoining parishes, causing great destruction and loss of life. A telegram from Cincinnati reports that the breaking up of the ice has caused great destruction of property on the upper and lower waters of the Ohio River.

The Delaware House of Delegates rejected the constitutional amendment yesterday, by a vote of 15 to 6. The bill allowing negroes to testify and making the nature of their punishment for crime the same as that inflicted on whites was also defeated.

In New York, on Tuesday, between twelve and one o'clock, the office of Leonard W. Jerome, on Wall street, was entered by burglars and robbed of \$100,000 in U. S. Five-twenty bonds. The detectives have some hope of securing the guilty parties.

A U. S. officer in the North has placed in the hands of Mr. Strouse, member of Congress from Pennsylvania, to be returned to its rightful owner, a very valuable ring, the property of Jefferson Davis.

At the adjourned meeting of the Democratic members of Congress, held on Monday night, to consider the proposition for calling a National Democratic Convention, the project received its quietus.

The Senate yesterday refused to confirm the nomination of William Wales as Surveyor of Customs for the port of Baltimore and also that of General Couch as Collector of Customs for the port of Philadelphia.

The committee appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury is engaged in investigating an alleged robbery or embezzlement of public securities to some amount in the Treasury Department.

The Bavarian Prince, whose family has enjoyed the postal monopoly of Germany for three hundred years, has disposed of the right to the Government of Prussia for three million thalers.

Official despatches received at the War Department, state that the report that fifty men have been killed by Cheyenne Indians beyond Fort Wallace, is all false.

Com. Charles Stewart has been seventy years in the American navy, having entered in 1797, and he is still in full possession of his mental faculties.

The Louisiana House of Representatives unanimously rejected the Constitutional amendment yesterday.

The Washington Chronicle says that the "new Reconstruction Scheme" "comes too late!"

COURT OF APPEALS.—In this court on Tuesday the following cases were disposed of: O'Neil vs. Commonwealth upon an appeal for a writ of error to a judgment of the Circuit Court of Fairfax county, by which the plaintiff was sentenced to the penitentiary for two years. The writ appealed for was awarded on the 23d of July last, and on the day afterwards the appellant was pardoned. The writ was consequently dismissed on execution.

The case of Smith's executor vs. Smith and others, upon an appeal from a decree pronounced by the Circuit Court of Alexandria, was heard, and the court reversed the decree of the lower court.

The following is a more full report of one of the cases mentioned above:

The petition of Richards C. Smith was heard and disposed of by this court yesterday. It was a bill, praying a writ, whereby he directed a certain division and disposition of his estate, in the will mentioned, among his children, and certain other of his relations and connections; and appointed the petitioner executor of his will, with certain powers over his real, as well as his personal estate; that on examining said will there was found an apparent irregularity on the part of the testator to appoint his real son to the property beneficially devised, but it was very doubtful if the words sufficed to carry the real estate at all; or merely left it to descend to the heirs at law; and that, to clear up these doubts, and for his instruction how to proceed in his trust under the will, the bill in the accompanying record was filed; and the court decreed that the real property was not disposed of by the will, but that the testator died intestate as to the same. Among other things, the petitioner suggests, that in such decree there is error in holding that said will does not carry the real estate; and for his instruction and protection as trustee and executor, he prays an appeal and supersedeas from the said decree.

The court was of opinion that the testator, Hugh Charles Smith, did not die intestate as to his real estate, and that the words "all the residue of my estate which may at any time accrue and come to the hands of my executor either from the lapsing of any of the aforesaid legacies or otherwise," in the residuary clause of the will, are applicable, and that the decree of the Circuit Court so far as it is inconsistent with the foregoing opinion is erroneous; therefore the said decree was reversed and annulled, and the residue thereof affirmed; and that Richards C. Smith pay unto the appellees their costs by them expended.

VIRGINIA NEWS.

The Fredericksburg Herald says: "Mr. L. O. Magrath, who has been largely engaged in trading between this point and Washington city, brought suit before the Mayor, a few days ago, for the value in Washington, of nine partridges, [out of a lot of one hundred and eighty] which had been sent by the Southern Express company, but had failed to reach Mr. M's agent in Washington. The value here was 12½ cents each; in Washington, 25 cents each. The Mayor decided that the plaintiff was entitled to recover the Washington city price, and gave judgment to that effect."

Mr. Gray, of Rockingham, has introduced into the Senate of Virginia, a bill to authorize the transfer of the property, charter, and franchise of the Manassas Gap railroad company, and the stock shares in the same, to the Orange and Alexandria railroad; which, on his motion, was referred to the Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation. It has since been reported to the Senate.

In the proceedings of the Senate of West Virginia last Friday, we notice an initiative move relative to an adjustment of the joint State debt. No action seems to have been taken, at least none is reported, upon the resolution. The language of the resolution is an unfortunate opening of what, under the most favorable circumstances, cannot but prove a tedious and difficult business.

The Loudoun Mirror says: "The case of Maddux vs. Ayers, involving the title to the 'Ludgolan' estate in this county, which has attracted considerable attention during the last year or two, having several times been passed upon by the courts, was last week amicably compromised between the parties themselves, Ayers retaining possession of the property."

Among other enterprises it may not be out of place to mention the "Virginia Porcelain and Granite Ware Works," situated on South river, 7 miles south of Waynesboro'. These works were commenced in Confederate times.

THE BASE BALL CONVENTION.—Delegates from Richmond, Alexandria, &c., assembled in Richmond, on Monday, for the purpose of adopting some general laws by which the clubs throughout the State might be governed:

Committees to perfect organization and prepare business were appointed. The committees were retired and in a short time returned, the former committee nominating the following gentlemen as officers of the Convention:

President, William Penney; 1st Vice President, E. Cohen; 2d Vice President, John E. Davidson; Recording Secretary, Alexander Easton; Treasurer, W. W. Wood; who were unanimously elected.

The name of the Virginia Association of Base Ball players was then adopted for the clubs of this State. The Constitution of the National Base Ball Association was read, and, with a few modifications, adopted as the Constitution of this Association.

The following gentlemen were then elected associates of the permanent organization: President, E. Cohen; 1st Vice President, E. M. Latham; 2d Vice President, J. E. Davidson; Recording Secretary, O. A. Glazebrook; Corresponding Secretary, G. Watson James; Treasurer, Samuel P. Weisiger.

The following delegates from clubs in Alexandria were present: Mr. Latham and J. L. Leverage; Old Dominion—William Penney and John H. Duffey; Pioneer—Thomas Burnett and John H. Duffey.

On Tuesday evening, the Convention having adjourned until that time, remembered. On motion of Mr. Davidson, a Judiciary Committee and a Committee on Printing were appointed.

On Judiciary—Messrs. Babcock, French, Leverage, Weisiger and Sharkey.

On Printing—Messrs. Parker, E. E. Taylor and James.

An assessment of \$3 from each club represented in the association was then ordered. The Committee on Printing were authorized to have the constitution, by-laws and regulations printed as soon as possible.

The Association then decided that the next meeting be held in Alexandria.

A vote of thanks was tendered by the meeting to the President for the able manner in which he had presided over the deliberations of the body, and also to Judge Lyons for his courtesy in tendering them the use of the hall. The meeting then adjourned.

THE POTOMAC RAILROAD.—In the Virginia House of Delegates, on Tuesday, House bill 148, to incorporate the Potomac Railroad Company, coming up, Mr. Graham offered an amendment to the pending amendment of Mr. Dunnington.

Mr. Graham's amendment rendered the charter of the Company null, in case the Fredericksburg and Alexandria Railroad Company should vigorously begin work before January 1st, 1867. Mr. Graham's amendment was lost by a vote of ayes, 23; noes, 30.

Mr. Robertson proposed an amendment extending the period for the Company to comply with certain provisions, from May 1st, 1867, to July 1st, 1867. The amendment was accepted by Mr. Dunnington.

Mr. Robertson offered an amendment, the effect of which was to fix the terminus of the road at Alexandria.

Mr. Waddell offered an amendment to the amendment, by striking the road pass on the bank of the Potomac river, via Alexandria, and terminate on the bank of the river near Georgetown.

Mr. Robertson said Alexandria had exhausted her resources and incurred a heavy debt in building up a series of internal improvements for the benefit of the State, and he hoped she would not, by the adoption of the last amendment, be stripped her of all the advantages which she was entitled to, and which she so much needed.

Mr. Waddell supported this amendment, as did also.

Mr. Kelley, who said he hoped the State had decided unilaterally in favor of railroad connection and through travel, and against the policy of damming up trade and travel for the benefit of certain localities.

Mr. Robertson had then been in Petersburg, and no people were then more opposed to such a policy.

Mr. Kelley said his people had been converted.

Mr. Robertson thought the enlightenment recent, but rejoined to hear it.

Mr. Z. Turner opposed Mr. Waddell's amendment. There was already a railway from Alexandria to Washington, and he thought the opposition of the Alexandrians was perfectly consistent and proper.

Mr. Waddell's amendment was lost by a vote of ayes, 18; noes, 37.

Mr. Robertson's amendment was agreed to, and the bill ordered to its engrossment.

The Lower House of the Maine Legislature has refused, by a vote of 45 yeas to 67 noes, to sanction the Senate bill to allow white persons to internment with negroes.

EUROPE.

LATEST BY ATLANTIC CABLE.

Our advices from Europe by the cable are to yesterday. During the delivery of the Queen's speech in Parliament, the people cried out "Reform, Reform!" Mr. Ross Winans has received a contract from Russia to build cars and locomotives for the Government. The Duke of Flanders, the heir apparent to the Belgian throne, is to marry the Princess of Hohenzollern.

The Eastern question is growing more complicated. The people of Servia are taking up arms against Turkish rule. At Constantinople the peace party is increasing; the Viceroy of Egypt has sent to ascertain whether the leading Powers of Europe will sanction his assertion of complete independence of the Sublime Porte.

We have the letter of the Emperor to the French Minister of State, denouncing a series of reforms measures.

The American turret system for iron-clads has been strongly recommended to the British Admiralty by some of the most distinguished engineers and naval constructors in England.

The Paris papers state that the French Government is preparing a *senatus consultum* granting to the Senate powers corresponding with the reforms recently decreed and giving it a larger share of representation. In Paris the Imperial decree was regarded with favor by the journals, which also praise the change in the system with respect to the press. Some objection was made to the suppression of the customary address to the throne.

CONGRESS.—In the Senate, yesterday, a bill was reported providing for a temporary increase of 25 per cent. in the pay of army officers. A bill was introduced fixing the second Monday in October as the time for choosing electors, for President and Vice-President. The bill regulating the tenure of civil officers was taken up, the question being on the House amendment including Cabinet officers in the provisions of the bill. Mr. Dixon stated that when the proposed amendment to the Constitution is taken up he will offer an amendment which is substantially the same as the one now said to have been sent to the Legislatures of the Southern States. Mr. Saulsbury, of Delaware, made a speech in which he denounced Mr. Dixon's amendment, and stated that the Democratic party would not approve of it, and he hoped that no Congressional measures would induce the Southern States to adopt it. A vote was then taken on the pending amendment to the bill regulating the tenure of civil officers and it was rejected—yeas 17, nays 25. The Senate then went into executive session.

In the House of Representatives, a bill amending the several acts in relation to copyrights was taken up and passed. The Indian Appropriation bill was taken up and after some discussion was recommitted with instructions to strike out all appropriations except such as are necessary to carry out existing treaty stipulations. A communication was received from the President enclosing a list of the States which have given official notice of their ratification of the constitutional amendment. A number of bills were reported from the Committee on Military Affairs and disposed of; among them were the following which were passed: bill extending the jurisdiction of the Court of Claims so as to provide for payments for quartermaster's stores furnished to the U. S. army; bill allowing the Secretary of War to adjust the claims of the Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria Railroad for its use by the U. S. army during the late war; and a bill fixing the rights of volunteers as a part of the U. S. army. The House concurred in the Senate amendment to the bill restricting the jurisdiction of the Court of Claims in relation to claims for furnishing supplies to the U. S. army, and to the amendment to the bill fixing the duties of the Clerk of the House in preparing the list of Representatives in Congress. The bill to regulate the civil service of the U. S. was taken up and discussed. A motion was made to lay the bill on the table, which was agreed to—yeas 71, nays 67. A motion was then made to reconsider the vote by which the bill was laid on the table but was afterwards withdrawn. Mr. Stevens, from the Committee on Reconstruction, reported a bill to set aside the existing governments in the Southern States and to form these States into military districts, to be commanded by officers selected from the regular army. It will be taken up immediately. The House soon adjourned.

VIRGINIA, to wit:—In the Circuit Court of Fairfax county, February 1st, 1867, Jas. W. Farr vs. J. E. Residue. In chancery. Memorandum.—The object of this suit is to attach the following pieces of land in the county of Fairfax, viz: A tract of land containing 1884 acres near Bransville, now standing in the name of James W. Farr, and contracted to be sold to the said defendant. Also a piece of land near Bransville, containing 7 acres, the property of the said defendant; to satisfy and pay plaintiff the sum of \$14750, with interest thereon from 1st February, 1859, until paid, and the costs of this suit.

It appearing by affidavit filed that the defendant, J. E. Residue, is not a resident of this State, it is ordered that he appear within one month after due publication hereof, and do what is necessary to protect his interest. A copy, test.

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"HE DIED AS HE LIVED."

BY JAMES L. ROCHE.

[BENEDICT EDLIN, esq., the subject of the following notice, was one of the most respected citizens of Prince George's county, Md. He resided at "Bluff Wood," in Piscataway District, where his many acts of benevolence were widely known. A brief attack of pneumonia, contracted in the discharge of his Christian duties, led to his death on the 17th of last month, in the meridian of his life. His death is deeply regretted by the whole community, who warmly sympathize with his afflicted family in their bereavement.]

He lived at peace with God and man, And as he lived he died; To gain salvation was his plan, And love the means he tried.

Through life he was the poor man's friend, And in the time of need, To him a helping hand to lend, In vain did not one plead.

The miser thought came always last, His bounty to secure; The first to which his mind had passed, Was whether you were poor.

His love of justice was so strong, Before he slept that night, If he was accused of wrong, He always made it right.

Whatever tale of shame he heard, Though none could else deny, He made it false, and if he erred, It was at virtue's side.

The virtues he had prized above All earthly joy and gold; He taught his children, too, to love, And practice like himself.

He was a neighbor, kind and good; His heart went with his hand; And as a husband, no one stood Above him in the land.

We must not ask of gracious Heaven, Who knows our wants the best, Why fondest hearts are always riven, And when they are most blest.

Where parted spirits join once more, For all eternal life, Thither he's only gone before, His pure and gentle wife.

Prepare to follow him to-day, For ere to-morrow, may come The call to bear his bride straightway, To her celestial home.

His peace with God and man was made, No more could he remain unpaid; But his noble debt remained unpaid: The common debt of all.

When monuments failed to preach, The warrior's deed, shall tell, His shall be worth's enduring fame, And shall survive them all.

ALEXANDRIA, Va., February 7, 1867.

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